

Georgetown University

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Radiation Safety
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RADIOACTIVE WASTE - LABORATORY STORAGE

All radioactive waste generated by Authorized Users (AU) will be stored for a period of time in the lab prior to being transported to the Radiation Safety Office Staff (RSOS). The following criteria will be followed when storing waste prior to transport. The RSOS provides assorted sizes of yellow plastic bags and liquid waste containers for storage. General rules concerning radioactive waste storage are as follows:

- Waste containers must be labeled with appropriate “Caution - Radioactive Materials” labels and **sorted by isotope and type**.
- Waste must not be stored in high traffic areas.
- Waste must not be allowed to accumulate in the labs. This may lead to inventory problems, increased exposures to lab personnel, and, an increased potential for spills and contamination.
- Waste must be appropriately shielded. Consult with the RSOS for the isotopes that require shielding, as well as the type of shielding required.

Solid & Stock Vial Waste

- All solid and stock vial waste must be stored in yellow bags, issued by the Radiation Safety Office.
- Solid waste must be stored in bags contained in rigid containers, not in bags stored on shelves or lying on bench tops.

Liquid Waste

- All bulk liquids stored on the floor, or in glass containers, must be stored in secondary containment.
- Liquid containers must also be labeled either aqueous or organic, and include the chemical solutions they contain.
- Bulk liquids must be stored in closed plastic containers, provided by the RSOS.

Liquid Scintillation Vial Waste

- Scintillation vials must be stored in trays which keep the vials upright. The vials must be tightly capped.
- Segregate and label each tray of vials with the radionuclide.
- Glass Scintillation vials must not be stored on shelves.

Sharps

- Broken glass, pipettes, needles or other sharp objects must be individually protected so that containers and fingers will not be punctured. These sharp objects must be placed inside a rigid, plastic sharps container, which may be obtained through the RSOS.